

**IN THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for securing financing and managing repayment of a loan, the apparatus comprising:  
a loan request input module for receiving a request for the loan from a borrower;  
a processor connected to the loan request input module for processing the request for the loan;  
a credit evaluation module connected to the processor for determining a credit evaluation of the borrower based on the request for the loan;  
a loan determination module connected to the processor and receiving at least the credit evaluation, the loan determination module determining at least a first status of the loan based on predetermined criteria wherein terms of the loan are provided to the borrower when the first status has been determined;  
a financing solicitation module connected to the processor for subdividing the loan into a plurality of subscriptions when the first status of the loan has been determined and soliciting a plurality of investors to each fill at least one of the subscriptions to secure financing for the full value of the loan from the plurality of investors ~~when the first status of the loan has been determined~~; and  
a repayment module connected to the processor for servicing and managing repayment of the loan by the borrower to each of the plurality of investors.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the loan request input module comprises an electronic channel connected to a wide area network (WAN).
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the wide area network (WAN) comprises the Internet.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the loan request input module comprises an electronic channel connected to a public switched telephone network.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the loan request input module comprises an electronic channel connected to a facsimile machine, wherein the facsimile machine is connected to a public switched telephone network.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the loan request input module comprises an electronic channel connected to a voice synthesizer unit and a speech recognition system.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the loan request input module comprises an electronic channel connected to a dual tone multi-frequency telephone network.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the credit evaluation module is connected to the processor via a wide area network (WAN).
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the wide area network (WAN) is connected to the Internet.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the credit evaluation module is connected to the processor via an electronic channel connected to a public switched telephone network.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the processor is connected to at least one monitor.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the processor is connected to at least one printer.
13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the processor further comprises at least one data entry terminal.
14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the financing solicitation module comprises an electronic channel connected to a wide area network (WAN).
15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the wide area network comprises the Internet.
16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the repayment module comprises an electronic channel connected to a wide area network (WAN).
17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the wide area network comprises the Internet.
18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the processor is connected to a wide area network (WAN).
19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the wide area network (WAN) comprises the Internet.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for securing financing for a loan, the apparatus comprising:
- a loan request input module for receiving a request for the loan from a borrower;
  - a processor connected to the loan request input module for processing the request for the loan;
  - a credit evaluation module connected to the processor for determining a credit evaluation of the borrower based on the request for the loan;
  - a loan determination module connected to the processor and receiving at least the credit evaluation, the loan determination module determining at least a first status of the loan based on predetermined criteria wherein terms of the loan are provided to the borrower when the first status has been determined; and
  - a financing solicitation module connected to the processor for subdividing the loan into a plurality of subscriptions when the first status of the loan has been determined and soliciting a plurality of investors to each fill at least one of the subscriptions to secure financing for the full value of the loan from the plurality of investors ~~when the first status of the loan has been determined.~~
21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising a repayment module connected to the processor for servicing and managing repayment of the loan by the borrower.
22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the processor is connected to a wide area network (WAN).

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the wide area network (WAN) comprises the Internet.
24. (Currently Amended) A method for securing financing and managing repayment of a loan, the method comprising the steps of:  
receiving a request for a loan from a borrower;  
obtaining a credit evaluation of the borrower;  
assigning a risk level for the loan based on at least the credit evaluation of the borrower;  
providing terms of the loan to the borrower when the risk level for the loan meets predetermined criteria;  
subdividing the full value of the loan into a plurality of subscriptions;  
soliciting financing for the loan based on at least the terms of the loan and the risk level assigned to the loan when the risk level meets at least the predetermined criteria by soliciting a plurality of investors to each fill at least one of the subscriptions until subscriptions equal to the full value of the loan are filled;  
executing the loan; and  
managing repayment of the loan to each of the investors.
25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of receiving the request for the loan comprises receiving the request for the loan using an electronic channel connected to a wide area network (WAN).
26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the wide area network comprises the Internet.

27. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of receiving the request for the loan comprises receiving the request of the loan using an electronic channel connected to a public switched telephone network.
28. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of receiving the request for the loan comprises receiving the request for the loan using an electronic channel connected to a facsimile machine and wherein the facsimile machine is connected to a public switched telephone network.
29. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of receiving the request for the loan comprises receiving the request for the loan using an electronic channel connected to a voice synthesizer unit and a speech recognition system.
30. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of receiving the request for the loan comprises receiving the request for the loan using an electronic channel connected to a dual tone multi-frequency telephone network.
31. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of obtaining the credit evaluation of the borrower comprises obtaining the credit evaluation of the borrower using a credit evaluation module.
32. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of obtaining the credit evaluation of the borrower comprises obtaining the credit evaluation using an electronic channel connected to a wide area network (WAN).
33. (Original) The method of claim 32 wherein the wide area network (WAN) comprises the Internet.

34. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of obtaining the credit evaluation of the borrower comprises obtaining the credit evaluation using an electronic channel connected to a public switched telephone network.
35. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of obtaining the credit evaluation of the borrower comprises obtaining the credit evaluation using an electronic channel connected to a facsimile machine and wherein the facsimile machine is connected to a public switched telephone network.
36. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of assigning the risk level to the borrower comprises determining the risk level according to at least one pre-stored risk table.
37. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of assigning the risk level to the borrower comprises determining the risk level according to predetermined criteria.
38. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of providing the terms of the loan to the borrower comprises determining the terms of the loan according to at least one pre-stored loan repayment schedule.
39. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of providing the terms of the loan to the borrower comprises determining the terms of the loan according to predetermined criteria.
40. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of proposing the terms of the loan to the borrower comprises proposing the terms of the loan using an electronic channel connected to a wide area network (WAN).

- 41. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein the wide area network (WAN) comprises the Internet.
- 42. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of executing the loan comprises executing the loan using an electronic signature of the borrower.
- 43. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of managing repayment of the loan comprises managing repayment of the loan using an electronic channel connected to a wide area network (WAN).
- 44. (Original) The method of claim 43 wherein the wide area network (WAN) comprises the Internet.

45. (Currently Amended) A method for securing financing for a loan, the method comprising the steps of:  
receiving a request for a loan from a borrower via a wide area network (WAN);  
obtaining a credit evaluation of the borrower from the wide area network (WAN);  
assigning a risk level for the loan based on at least the credit evaluation of the borrower;  
providing terms of the loan to the borrower when the risk level for the loan meets predetermined criteria via the wide area network (WAN);  
subdividing the full value of the loan into a plurality of subscriptions;  
soliciting financing for the loan via the wide area network (WAN) based on at least the terms of the loan and the risk level assigned to the loan when the risk level meets at least the predetermined criteria by soliciting a plurality of investors via the wide area network (WAN) to each fill at least one of the subscriptions until subscriptions equal to the full value of the loan are filled;  
and  
executing the loan via the wide area network (WAN).
46. (Original) The method of claim 45 wherein the wide area network (WAN) comprises the Internet.
47. (Original) The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of managing repayment of the loan via the wide area network (WAN).
48. (Original) The method of claim 47 wherein the wide area network (WAN) comprises the Internet.